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What is claimed is:

1. A portable high efficiency electrostatic sampling device comprising:

(a) at least one discharge electrode,

(b) a high voltage power supply operatively connected to

said at least one electrode,

(c) a power source operatively connected to said high

voltage power supply and at least one discharge electrode,
wherein said high voltage power supply effects ionization from

said at least one electrode;

wherein said device generates a sufficient electrostatic

charge to attract particulates to a grounded, conductive

material.

2. The device of claim 1 further comprising a voltage regulator
operatively connected to said power source and said high voltage
power supply.

3. The device of claim 1 further comprising a first sealed
compartment creating a water-tight enclosure of electronic parts.

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4. The device of claim 3 further comprising a second sealed compartment creating a water-tight enclosure of said power source.
5. The device of claim 1 wherein said power source is selected from the group consisting of at least one battery, an AC powered adaptor with a DC output, and combinations thereof.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein said grounded, conductive material is a media suitable to culture microorganisms.
7. The device of claim 1 wherein said grounded, conductive material is selected from the group consisting of water, cell culture media, microbiological media, metal material, and conductive carbon.
8. A method for collecting airborne particulates comprising:
 - (a) placing a portable high efficiency electrostatic sampling device of claim 1 in a vicinity to be sampled,
 - (b) applying a high negative voltage to at least one discharge electrode to create a strong electrostatic field close to a grounded, conductive material, and

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(c) collecting particulates in or on said grounded, conductive material.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said particulates are microorganisms.

10. A method for collecting airborne particulates comprising:

(a) placing a portable, high efficiency electrostatic sampling device of claim 2 in a vicinity to be sampled,
(b) applying a high negative voltage to at least one discharge electrode to create a strong electrostatic field to airborne particulates, and
(c) collecting particulates in or on a grounded, conductive material.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said particulates are microorganisms.